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Official voice of the Air Force Research Laboratory

Munitions scientist snatches tech transfer award

by Bill Thornton, Munitions directorate

EGLIN AFB, FLA. — Donald R. Snyder, senior research scientist at the Air Force Research Laboratory Munitions directorate here, is the recipient of the 1999 Yates Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer.

One of Snyder's accomplishments which led to this award was leading the Experimental Dynamics Imaging team. The team developed a high-speed, high-resolution digital camera that combines the latest developments in electronic imaging technology with state-of-the-art computer technology.

For example, to capture the explosion of a warhead, the camera freezes the motion of each bomb fragment. This allows researchers to precisely measure the fragment's size, velocity and direction. This process is possible due to the use of a narrow pulse of laser light that is 1,000 times brighter than the explosion. With this laser flashbulb, researchers can look through the explosion's debris as each fragment is illuminated. The team also won the 1998 Harold Edgerton Award for photonics.

This is the second year in a row that a member of the Munitions directorate has won the Yates Award. Last year Dr. Pat Coffield was the award recipient.

"We are batting pretty good on this one for the last couple of years," said Terry Jones, chief of the directorate's Office of Research and Technology Applications. "Now, AFRL will have to ship the award back to us. I should have just kept it from last year and saved the expense!" @